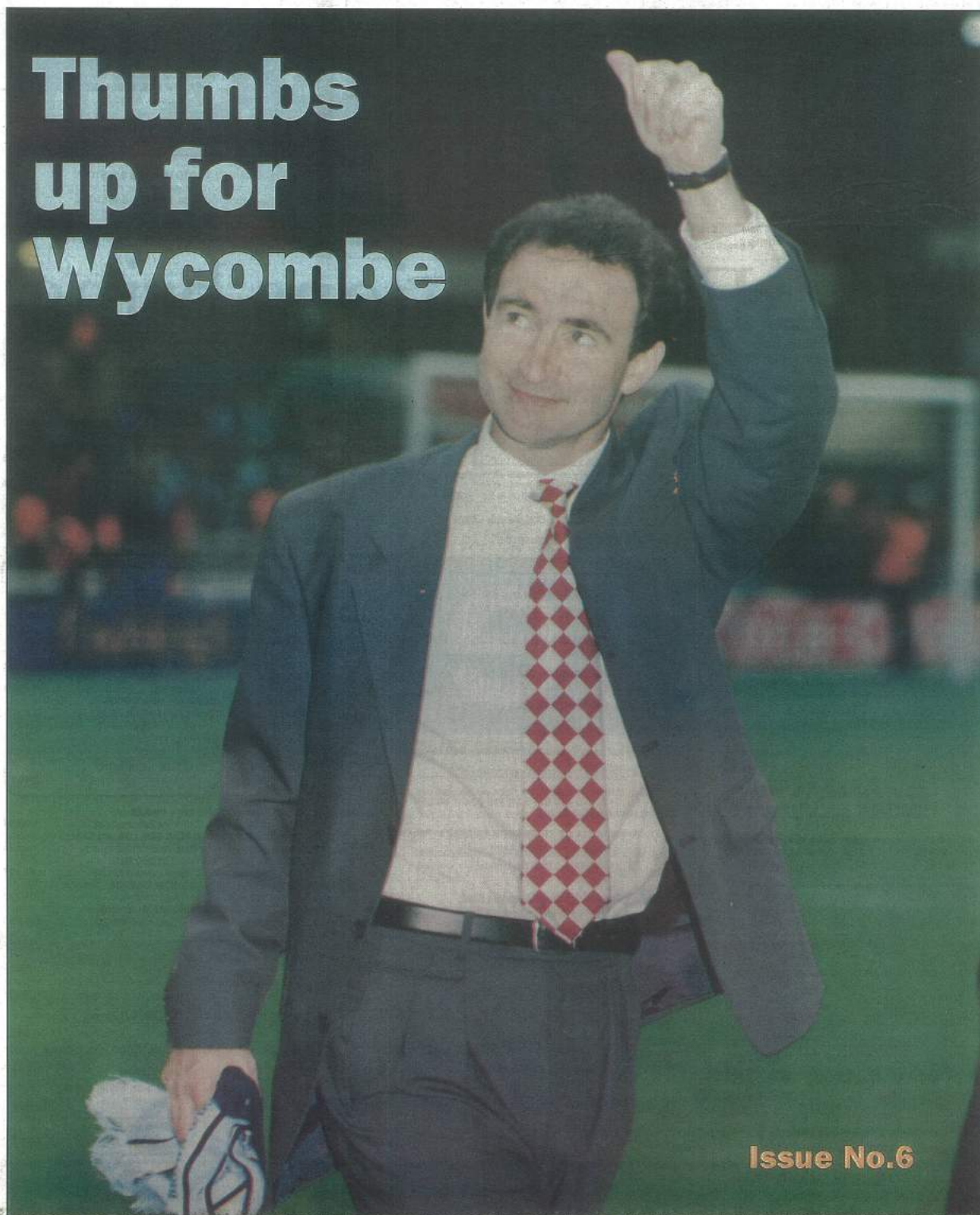




The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

Thumbs up for Wycombe



Issue No.6

2

THE BLUES NEWS

CONTENTS

- Page 2
Mark Austin on success
- Page 3
From the bench by Martin O'Neill
- Page 4
Canvassing is not just a lottery
- Page 5
On the sidelines with Terry Evans
- Page 6/7
Jason Cousins interview
- Page 8
You have to be mad to work here
- Page 9
Supporters' view by Stephen Lee
- Page 10
Players in profile
- Page 12
A word about our sponsors

Pictures for The Blues News are supplied by Brian Southam and photographers from the Bucks Free Press

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe. Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax: (0494) 527633.



Familiar faces: Last year's squad lines up but how many new faces will there be at the start of the new season?

Expectations bring their problems

WHEN Ted Rodgers used to say 3-2-1 on that infamous game show, was he predicting Wycombe Wanderers' rise from the GM Vauxhall Conference to the Premier Division of the Endsligh Insurance League?

Great Expectations have been a real problem following club success, since moving from Loakes Park to the purpose-built Adams Park. Many now think Wycombe Wanderers will do well to avoid the FIVE relegation places in Division Two, next season. Thank goodness we are no longer expected to win the Division as champions. It makes a change from the last three seasons.

Unlike Division Three, when only one side could be relegated, next season's challenge is to continue to raise the standard higher to avoid all five relegation slots. Only the champions will be automatically promoted to Division One, leaving the next four clubs to play off for the final promotion spot. At this sobering stage, reaching the play-offs for a second season running would be an unbelievable dream. (Although it would be great to walk it!)

To consolidate our League position or move up into the TV-dominated world of Division One, the club will need to spend more than ever before. This can be funded only by increased income across the board. Record season ticket sales should give the club an initial boost and,

hopefully, larger attendances will help.

Commercially the club has never needed its supporters, advertisers, customers and sponsors more. Obviously, they have reaped benefits over three marvellous years, and are the only ones who can provide the resources for a serious assault on Division One.

The club still offer the tremendous family value for money at Adams Park, especially with the introduction of family stand season tickets. The Family Stand will be sponsored by Wycombe District Council and ProLeisure for the third year. With this and a £12,500 Jewson grant, a large modern children's room and creche facility has been built under the Family Stand K. This will be open before our pre-season friendlies. The Vere Suite extension is finished, providing more room, and an additional bar.

The club recognises it must continue to improve facilities for supporters and businesses to ensure they receive value for money and encourage them to invite friends and guests to enjoy themselves at Adams Park.

by Mark Austin
sales and marketing manager



NUMBER

Buckinghamshire College is your local University College with 200 full and part-time degree level courses on offer.



ne

FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN WYCOMBE

We have two well equipped sites, in High Wycombe and Chalfont St Giles, with a total student population approaching 8000.

As providers of higher education in the region we can claim over 100 years of academic excellence.

For information and advice on our University Degrees and Higher National Diplomas, phone the Marketing Department on 0494 522141.

**Buckinghamshire College, Queen Alexandra Road,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 2JZ.
Tel: (0494) 522141 Fax: (0494) 471585**

A combination of skill and colour that can work for you

At Hughenden Litho we're working with colour everyday, whether it's corporate stationery in a single colour, or full colour sales literature.

So, naturally we know how to make colour work effectively, in order that it

can work profitably for our clients, whatever the size of their company or nature of its business.

We pride ourselves on producing work of quality, delivered on time and within budget.

Hughenden Litho - Effective colour printing with confidence and care.

Call Robert Yandell and ask for our colour brochure.

Hughenden Litho Ltd
0494 464408

Lithographic Origination



Tel 0494 472622
Fax 0494 465334

Bureau Service

Scanning

Planning

Platemaking

Proofing

DTP

BROCHURES · NEWSLETTERS · STATIONERY · DATA SHEETS AND LEAFLETS · POSTCARDS AND POSTERS · CALENDARS · BINDERS

THE BLUES NEWS

3

Our hearts held up fine

Players now have new targets to meet

By Martin O'Neill

I SAID before the play-offs that if your heart could stand it, then gaining promotion at Wembley in front of a big crowd would be the most exciting and exhilarating way imaginable to end any season, let alone our first season in League football.

Those of you who witnessed the team's performance at the famous old Stadium a few weeks ago would surely agree with me.

Again, when it really mattered, when they were faced with a pressurising "winner takes all" situation, the players did not fail. On the day they were absolutely magnificent.

Taking all factors into consideration, they certainly saved the best for last. We should have been three goals up in the first 25 minutes, so much on top were we. Instead we found ourselves trailing at half time by two goals to one.

I know now that there was a rather uneasy feeling among our supporters during the interval, that perhaps, having missed some golden opportunities to be in front, it wasn't going to be our day. The players' spirits, I can assure you, were never down during the interval and we felt that if we could get level again our superior brand of football would win the day.

Simon Garner's goal, brilliantly taken just after the interval was the boost we were looking for, and Dave Carroll's two goals, the first the culmination of a magnificent four-man move, the second a fantastic solo effort, were enough to gain us an historic victory and send our supporters home deliriously happy.

I suppose now is the time to draw breath and reflect, at least for a few weeks, on our first season in the professional world of League football. Please don't be fooled into believing that it has been an easy introduction. A successful one, yes, but an easy one, never!

I have mentioned more than one occasion that the adjustment from part-time football to full time was not easy. Yet the players' experience of consistently winning matches and trophies in the Vauxhall Conference had given them a competitive edge which was not to desert them all season.

Although I didn't make wholesale changes for the new season, the signing and, more importantly, the performances, of Terry Evans was a major factor in our ability to keep up with the leaders in the Third Division.

By the time we had beaten Coventry in the Coca-Cola Cup we had gained sufficient confidence in ourselves to realise that promotion in the



"A successful season but never easy" says Martin O'Neill. Captain Glyn Creaser brings home the bacon at Wembley after Blues' long hard year

first year was not an unrealistic target.

Qualifying for the third round of the FA Cup and a great run in the Autoglass Trophy seemed to off-set the sale of the almost irreplaceable Keith Scott to Swindon for an eventual £375,000 fee. But Keith's departure was a major loss and one that I genuinely believe would have flattened the hopes of most other clubs in the Third Division had it happened to them.

The fact that promotion was achieved, despite his early November departure (and his still being the leading scorer at the Football Club at the END of the season) speaks volumes for the efforts of the rest of the players.

His £20,000 replacement,

"We will need to strengthen the side next season"

Lee Turnbull, from Doncaster Rovers, spent most of the rest of the season with a broken bone in his foot but some of the players seemed to thrive on the extra responsibility that a bit of adversity seemed to bring with it.

When Terry Evans was injured at Craven Cottage in the Autoglass Trophy, Glyn Creaser (who is actually doing very well to walk never mind play professional football after his own horrific foot injury) came back to play the most crucial role of his footballing life to take us into the Second Division.

However, not everyone is always satisfied. The chairman showed me a letter he had been sent from Oxfordshire where one of our supporters, obviously disappointed at our result at Crewe, decided to write a blueprint for success, taking into account the mistakes and

failures of the season.

This was even before we had played Carlisle in the play-offs and there are still a few people who feel, despite promotion in the Football League, that losing to Marlow in the Berks and Bucks Cup was a criminally unforgettable offence.

I promise these people we will win the Berks and Bucks Cup next season if that is truly the most important event of the year. Reading obviously suffered last season by losing in the first round of the cup — for the 20th year in a row!

There is no doubt that we will need to strengthen our side for next season if the club intend to stay successful.

I keep telling the chairman that pulling free transfer players out of the hat to make the club 'tick' is only part of the equation. I had to remind him that David Titterton was given a free transfer last season — from Hereford!

We will also try to get the best out of Steve Brown, our record signing, who is actually a very good player. I just want him to settle down and play his best for Wycombe — preferably before the turn of the century.

But overall everyone associated with the club can draw a great deal of satisfaction from our first season in the Football League.

Unfortunately, when the players report for pre-season training in July, their past achievements are confined to the history book and new targets are set.

Whether we are up to them remains to be seen. However if next season Terry Evans is unable to win his place back in the team, if Simon Stapleton scores ten league goals, and if a Dave Carroll Appreciation Society is founded on the terraces of Adams Park, then I am sure we will all be making a bit of progress.

Have a nice break.



WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB LTD Safety Stewards Required

Do you enjoy football at Adams Park?

We hope so, and to continue the family atmosphere in safe and pleasant surroundings we are looking for new stewards to work alongside our current stewards.

Are you are between the ages of 18 and 55, fit and active.

If so perhaps you would like to consider becoming a steward and taking on a responsible job at the Club?

Pay is not high but you will be provided with protective clothing and be able to attend all home matches without paying an entrance fee, and know that you are doing something worthwhile for the club and the community.

If you are interested, please drop into the Club Reception at Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, and ask for an application form.

Once you have completed this you will be invited to attend a selection evening where all the duties and privileges will be explained to you. Alternatively if you cannot get into the club to pick up a form just phone 0494 472100 and we will send you an application form in the post.

SWAN CLEANING SERVICES
 ● COMMERCIAL ● OFFICE ●
 ● CONTRACT CLEANING ●
 ● FLOOR MAINTENANCE ●
(0494) 864857

CHAPEL LANE MOTORS
MOT's, Tyres, Servicing & All MOT Repairs Undertaken
 Wycombe Metro Centre
 Lancia & Fiat Specialist
 Open 6½ Days for MOT's
 (7 Day Free Retest)
0494 526013/ 474757

THE HAMPDEN SAWMILL
 For all your Timber, Sheds, Animal Housing, Playhouses, Workshops, Garden Furniture, Fencing, Gates, Firewood
 And all your sawmilling requirements contact:
George Mackenzie on 0494 488553
 For Free Quotation and Advice
 The Hampden Sawmill
 Great Hampden,
 Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 9RG

Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

Do You Have A Few Hours A Week To Spare?
Extra Cash Would Come In Handy?

Wycombe Wanderers Chiltern Gold Lottery is a door to door operation and this is where you could help.

We are looking for fit, flexible and sociable people to form a team of canvassers to develop our existing rounds and to create new ones as the need arises. Experience has taught us that the best canvassers and agents are those who have the Football Club's interest at heart, as well as their own!

For every ticket that you sell you will earn 50 pence. It's as simple as that. On average 30 tickets are sold in a two hour period. Work for two hours per evening, four nights a week and you would earn £60 per week.

Could You Use An Extra £60 Per Week?

Join the Wanderers
 Canvassing Team today!
 For full details, call Mike Phillips on
(0494) 472100

4

THE BLUES NEWS



Canvasser extraordinaire: John Simmons, left, hands a cheque for £3,000 to Mr A Brown for having the winning 50p Chiltern gold ticket

Canvassing is not just a lottery

**By John Simmons
 Canvasser & Lottery Supervisor**

ALTHOUGH I have previously written most of this information in two Wycombe Wanderers programmes, many of you haven't had the chance to read about our thriving lottery, aptly named Chiltern Gold. For reasons better known to yourselves some haven't had the pleasure of visiting our nearly-new modern stadium with full safety precautions.

The envy of thousands of visiting supporters, including some from the higher leagues, it has first-class facilities, including dining, weddings and conference rooms.

When I joined the club's fundraising venture (after reading an advert for lottery canvassers in the Bucks Free Press, March 1975 Edition), I was the only person to apply and had been a regular Blues supporter since April 1947, after leaving the RAF after a traumatic tour plus four more operations of Germany and the occupied territories with Bomber Command.

At the time I should have been in Heaven three times, as statistics showed you lived on "borrowed" time after 10 to 11 ops. When I commenced canvassing we were selling around 350 10p bingo tickets per month, mainly in factories. Now we sell around 9,000 50p tickets a week and it's one of the top door-to-door lotteries in the country.

During this 19-year period, I have joined well over 1,000 agents who have come and gone in an area from Slough to Newport Pagnell, and from Thame to Beaconsfield, including High Wycombe, Marlow, Maidenhead, Bourne End,

Chinnor, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Winslow, Stewley, Milton Keynes, Wolverhampton, Stony Stratford, and not forgetting the lovely town of Buckingham.

Space restricts me mentioning all the collectors, but I would like to highlight Mrs Smith from Castlefield who was the first agent I joined in April 1975 and she's still going strong.

Allowing for holidays and a couple of periods of sickness I believe I have now knocked on 360-400 households, many, of course, the same when re-canvassing. Between three and three-and-a-half hours each evening, including most weekends, I walk about three miles. So over 19 years I have walked around 17,000 miles in

third my age and twice as big, threatened in no uncertain terms to kill me if I didn't leave in 10 seconds. I excelled myself in two!

Unknowingly, I tried to sell our tickets to the chairman of Aylesbury United. This didn't go down too well and recently, canvassing an estate in the same town, a young chap answered the door and on seeing my Wanderers scarf said: "you've got a cheek, I'm a Ducks supporter".

It didn't improve matters when I replied: "Well, should you win the £3,000 top prize you can help the club buy a new player!" I was just leaving when his mum, said: "Don't worry about him, I'll have a couple of tickets." The point is I can now tell almost everytime, within a couple of seconds of the occupant answering the door, whether a sale is imminent.

A lady puffing a fag is almost a cert for two or even four tickets. A studious-looking man, especially with a beard, is usually a "no thanks". Mind, you do get surprises. I joined a vicar at Penn once and a Japanese lady who had only been in England a few weeks, but spoke perfect English. She was enthralled when I explained how the ticket worked.

One play I find a real winner is when a girl in her early teens answers the door. "Can I speak to your Mum?" says I, and when Mum makes an appearance my instant reaction is "I said your Mother not your sister". Eyes light up, eyelashes flicker and a warm voice says: "You flatterer, how much are the tickets!"

The reverse is sometimes the case. When you say: "Can I speak to Mum?" a voice replies importantly, "I'm the lady of the house". A quick response is required. "When you are 30, you'll still look a teenager." The reward is a lovely smile.

Canvassing can sometimes be exciting. Every door is a

challenge. When a door opens and a young lady appears shrouded in a bath towel you expect a quick "no thank you". You turn to leave when a sweet voice says: "Sorry to keep you waiting, how can I help?" This is when you wish you were 40 or 50 years younger!

You meet the extremes of society, like the The Lord of the Manor in a small village near Haddenham. After an elderly man answered the door, I saw a picture of a spitfire in an ornate frame. On enquiring, I found the gentleman was an ex-Group Captain of the RAF who, while a Wing Commander, led a well-known Spitfire Squadron during The Battle of Britain and was a great friend of the RAF's leading ace

"The room was filled with pictures and volumes of traumatic times"

Johnnie Johnson.

When he heard I was Ex-Bomber Command he instantly said: "Come in for a chat and what would you like to drink?"

We went into The Reading Room, filled with action pictures and volumes of those traumatic but inspiring times.

I had to excuse myself by telling him I wanted to complete canvassing the village before dark.

Canvassing can give you the boost you might desire but do remember always to have a supply of warm clothing and summer T-shirts, preferably with Wanderers insignia, a good selection of shoes and trainers and "wellies" for the snow, a tank of petrol, a reliable car, and a friendly but determined smile. Good luck - and "up the Blues".

THE BLUES NEWS

5

Promotion means I can make a splash

AFTER signing for Wycombe I could not believe that the final game of the season would be at Wembley for a Second Division place along with my old side Brentford.

Even after the result at home to Carlisle, when our place was booked, I knew in my heart that my chance of playing in the final was slim.

The knee has come on very well but time was against me. And Wembley is not the place for a comeback. Because I knew that I would not be playing, it helped me focus on team preparations and assist in anyway I could.

There was not a great deal of time available to plan things behind the scenes but the club were magnificent. On the Tuesday, the team were invited to a local restaurant called Barons Wine Bar where we enjoyed ourselves in a relaxing atmosphere.

On the Wednesday morning, we went to Oaklands to be measured for our suits. I would make a special mention of manager Ray, who even managed to alter the length of my trousers in time, as I am rarely able to buy any off the peg!

In the afternoon, we went to Henlow Grange Health Club for a massage and more relaxation. It is a fantastic place and I would recommend it to anyone for that special occasion.

We met at lunchtime on Thursday for final alterations to the suits, then did some light training before setting off for

"As the final whistle was blown I was like a man possessed"

Sopwell House in St Albans, where we would stay until the game.

Friday morning was spent looking around Wembley before returning for a light lunch. The players went off to prepare in their own way, either in the pool or by sleeping.

We were then taken to watch a matinee of Buddy at the Victoria Palace. This was very enjoyable and helped everyone to take their minds off the game, which was a brilliant idea. It was then back for something to eat before we got our heads down.

Light training on Saturday morning was preceded by breakfast and a short team talk where the Gaffer named the team before we left for the twin towers.

On my way, my lucky rock tape was playing which I had with me when Brentford won their divisional championship. We arrived at 1.30 and walked straight on to the pitch to soak up the atmosphere and pick out friends and family in the crowd.

ON THE SIDELINES
By Terry Evans



It is strange to be part of a team where most are younger than myself but have plenty of Wembley experience. I have never had the opportunity to play there myself. It, therefore, meant a great deal to me to warm up with the lads and hopefully assist in setting them down.

I was also very happy to congratulate our supporters; their response was just fantastic and they then proceeded to produce a great deal of noise for the entire game.

The roar that met the team as they came out was immense. I walked round to take my place on the bench feeling confident that the togetherness achieved by the carefully-planned preparations was spot-on and would have the desired effect. Full marks to the club for this.

The match, as they say, is history. The lads played great and dominated the game. I was particularly pleased that Dave Carroll once again answered his critics.

We now all call him Kalishnikov. He does not look much stripped down but when everything is put together, he is deadly.

I would like to personally thank him on behalf of every Wycombe player and supporter for scoring that fantastic fourth goal. We were all then allowed to breathe a little easier and enjoy ourselves.

As the final whistle was blown I was like a man possessed. I ran on to the pitch at full speed with arms aloft towards my good friend Jason.

He was spontaneously doing exactly the same thing towards me. It was as if we were on the same wave-length and to the Preston fans we must of looked like two lovers running down the beach to each other.

We all went crazy in the dressing room. The bath is huge and I had promised myself a dive into it if we won, which is what happened.

The drive back to the ground was a party in its self but this was nothing compared to the celebrations into the early hours at the ground.

I am already excited about next season. Brentford will undoubtedly be the first fixture I look for but there are plenty of other teams which should see Adams Park packed to the rafters.

Finally, a special mention to every everyone who has helped the club to make the promotion place. Thank you. I only hope we can produce as much excitement next season.



Hugs for Big Tel from Tiny Tim: But although he missed the Wembley play-off Tel still took a bath

AMERSHAM & WYCOMBE

COLLEGE



PHONE 0494 735500

Promote your future

with Amersham & Wycombe College!

We will provide you with

- WIDE RANGING OPPORTUNITIES
- AN ADULT ENVIRONMENT
- IMPROVED HIGH WYCOMBE CAMPUS FACILITIES
- EXCELLENT LEARNING RESOURCES
- PROFESSIONAL AND CARING TUTORS

AND we will help you by offering

- FREE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE
- NO ENROLMENT FEE
- TRAVEL SUBSIDY*
- NO TUITION FEES (16-19 yrs)
- ADULT FEE CONCESSIONS*
- ACCESS FUNDS*

*subject to status

Rated No 1 in the
Department for Education
Regional League Tables

AMERSHAM • CHESHAM • HIGH WYCOMBE



WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION II

ADMISSION CHARGES

For League Matches at Adams Park for 1994/95:-

Ground Admission (Adult)	£6.50
Ground Admission (OAPs & Juniors)	£4.00*
Seat in Stand (Adult, OAPs & Juniors)	£9.00*
Junior Family Stand Seats (Maximum 3 Juniors per Adult)	£4.00*

* Tickets for each of these categories can be purchased 2 weeks prior to each match

SEASON TICKETS 1994/95

These tickets are for all 23 Division Two league matches at Adams Park.

Season Ticket holders enjoy the following benefits:-

Guaranteed entry to section of choice up to 15 minutes before kick-off.
Exclusive turnstiles
Priority booking for all Home, Cup and Friendly matches, if all ticket.
New Classic Break voucher for free hotel accommodation.

Existing Categories	Standard Season Ticket	Special Season Ticket if paid by 8.7.94
Adult Terrace	£130.00	£123.50
Junior/OAP Terrace	£ 80.00	£ 76.00
Adult Seat	£180.00	£171.00
Junior/OAP Seat	£162.00	£153.00
True Blues Junior Terrace (Includes 1994/95 membership £10 reduction for existing members).	£ 90.00	£ 86.00
Vice President (£17.50 per match)		£402.50*

* (Includes free entry to all Friendly, Reserve & Junior matches if paid before 8.7.94).

Family Stand

Family Stand Adult Seat	£180.00	£171.00
Family Stand Junior Seat	£ 92.00	£ 92.00

(A Junior Ticket will only be sold with an adjacent Adult ticket. Maximum 3 Juniors per Adult).

Extra discount for League Members and new League Members who pay 6 months subscription in advance:

Any Terrace Adult Season Ticket	Less £15.00
Any Terrace Junior/OAP Season Ticket	Less £20.00
Any Seat Season Ticket	Less £10.00

To qualify as a Junior you must be under 16 on 1st June 1994. Existing seat season ticket holders in the main stand will be given first priority on their seats until Friday 1st July.

HOW TO APPLY FOR 1994/95 SEASON TICKET

Existing seat season ticket holders wishing to renew, please return the "Season Ticket Renewal Slip" from the back of your current book.

Existing seat season ticket holders must claim their seats by Friday 1st July 1994. After that date their seat will be re-sold. This also applies to existing Vice-Presidents, who must please pay in full by 8th July 1994 if they wish to continue membership.

If you wish to become a season ticket holder please state your name and type of season ticket required and enclose full payment. (Please make cheques payable to W.W.F.C.) Season tickets can be purchased from the commercial offices at Adams Park and Terrace Season tickets can also be purchased from Wanderers In Town in the Octagon.

Name.....
Date of birth (if under 18).....
Address.....
Postcode..... Telephone No.....
Please reserve me the following season ticket(s).....

(Please specify type and number of season ticket(s) and stand preferred where necessary).

Adult Terrace Davenport Vernon or Bucks Free Press Stand
Junior Terrace Davenport Vernon or Bucks Free Press Stand
Adult Seat
Junior/OAP Seat
True Blue Junior Terrace
Vice-President
Family Stand Adult Seat
Family Stand Junior Seat

I enclose remittance of £.....

Send to:

Wycombe Wanderers Football Club Ltd,
Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HJ
Tel: (0494) 472100 Fax: (0494) 527633 Ticket Creditcard Hotline: (0494) 441118

6 THE BLUES NEWS

Jason looks and onward

By Steve Hayes

AFTER a most exhilarating season, I felt it fitting to persuade Jason Cousins to talk to me about his career to date.

"I played for Hayes Manor School and the Borough side until the age of 13 before joining Belmont. My position was central midfield during the two years with them, Brentford then signed me at 15 for their youth side.

Games were each Sunday, which I did enjoy, but I was not allowed to play for any other team while with them. At 16, Brentford offered a two-year contract as a YTS on £27.50 a week.

We won nothing in the first season, but I was awarded the player of the year which did make me feel more confident about my own ability. There was more success in the second season which made me confident of being kept on full-time.

At the start of the 1989/90 season I was, indeed, taken on as a full professional and offered a two-year contract which was normal at the time. I decided that because of its content, a one-year term

"A letter was waiting for me ... my services were no longer required"

would be more beneficial.

I was selected for the first four games where my performances were very good. However, I only made the first team another eight times that season, being ever-present in the reserves.

In 1990, I played against Wycombe. My mother worked for Jim Melvin at the time who mentioned that Martin thought I had done quite well. He said that if I ever wanted to come down for a pre-season trial then all I had to do was call him, but there were no promises.

At the end of the 1990/91 season, Brentford offered me another two-year deal. I was 19 at the time, but what they put on the table was, in my view, a very poor package indeed, so I rejected it.

The apprentices at the club were a good bunch of lads I got on with very well. The closest other friend at Brentford was big Tel. He liked my style of play which is possibly why he named me Nutter.

In those days I did tend to get stuck in and, as you will see next season, the Second Division is full of very strong physical sides.

I felt that at my age there was little chance of them coming back to me with an improved deal. My fears were founded when on returning from holiday a letter was waiting for me stating that my services were no longer required.



Handy defender: Jason handstands at Wembley

Even though I was not surprised, it still hurt. I decided that it would be best for me to carry on with the pre-season training at Brentford, even though I was not going to be paid.

I still had belief in my own ability, so it was not too long before I contacted Martin to see if his offer was still available.

He selected me for four or five pre-season games where I, personally, felt my performances were quite ordinary. On the eve of the 91/92 season I was offered a one year deal.

This in many ways was a step down into Conference football but Wycombe had ambition and I already knew Paul Hyde, who told me a lot about the club so I signed.

The money was an improvement but, more importantly, I was able to look for full-time work, as we only trained two nights a week. I was surprised to be chosen for the first game against Gateshead, as I was not a proven player but I did all right and we won 2-1.

The team continued to do well. I think we won the first

seven games. My performances were creditable. That was until I was sent off following two bookable offences.

Football can be very difficult and you learn to take nothing for granted. It looked as if it was going to be very hard getting back into the side but, again, the Gaffer had faith and brought me straight in against Redbridge where I thanked him by managing to score.

We were all very disappointed to miss promotion on goal difference but the team had performed very well and we were all confident that success would not be too far away.

I had started to work as a bailiff, not the most glamorous job in the world but I enjoyed it, and the boss was a big football fan and getting time off when it was necessary never caused a problem.

The 1992/93 season started very well for me. The team won the first eight games and there was no one to fear. I only missed four games through injury and

THE BLUES NEWS

7

back at the traumas to a brighter future

suspension, because we were playing well and there was not too much pressure which is why, in my view, we won the league with three weeks of the season still remaining.

It had been my best-ever season, voted in the Conference side, runner-up as player of the year to Keith Scott, who had scored 29 goals, and an appearance in the FA Trophy Final.

It was a big thrill reaching Wembley. Players state before a big game like this that they are confident and not nervous at all. Well I can assure you that I would have much preferred Wycombe to have worn brown shorts instead of blue!

Being a defender I was petrified about scoring an own goal, giving away a penalty or, worse, getting myself sent off.

Fortunately scoring after two minutes did calm me down. My confidence was sky-high and there was no way I was going to have a poor game after that.

I do often reflect on that final. Even though things don't always go to plan, if you can produce the goods when it matters the confidence you gain lasts for quite a long time afterwards.

"The Gaffer made his point that I had let the lads down"

I was then offered a full-time contract with slightly improved earnings but there was quite a choice to make. It was clear that the Gaffer wanted all players to give up their normal jobs, but for me there was to be a big shortfall.

Having discussed the options in depth with my family, I decided to concentrate all my efforts on football with Wycombe.

I was proud to start the 1993/94 as captain. The team was playing well and big Tel had been signed from Brentford. It was good to play along side him again. I felt that his presence would help, not only my game but that of the rest of the lads.

Many people including myself felt it was very harsh for me to be sent off in the game against Colchester for handball however the Gaffer still made his point that I had let the lads down.

This was nothing compared to my diabolical challenge against Doncaster. To this day I have no idea what I was thinking of but I do know that I wanted the ground to open and swallow me.

To say that the Gaffer was annoyed is an understatement, he was furious. There was no point trying to explain myself as there was nothing that I could possibly say in my defence.

I had a long horrible weekend with very little sleep. Ian St John absolutely



Ball boy: Jason prepares to take a throw-in

murdered me on the Big Match and the tackle looked worse every time I watched it.

When I arrived on the Monday morning I was called straight into the Gaffer's office fearing the worst. He showed me the tackle on TV which I had already re-lived 100 times over. He told me I was to be fined a week's wages and lose the captaincy.

He then asked me not to come to the club for a week but, instead, to go home and collect my thoughts. As before, there was not a great deal I could say in my defence except apologise. I did, however, think my treatment was fair.

The next week was, without doubt, the worst in my life, because of the TV exposure and every paper was on the telephone looking for a story or at the very least a quote. It just never stopped ringing.

Not wanting to make matters worse, I did not know what to do or say and keeping silent may have not been good for the Club. I spoke to Alan Parry who very kindly wrote me a statement. This meant a great deal to me.

It was also very hard for my family. They had done nothing wrong but were also suffering which made me feel even worse than I already did. On my arrival, the next

Monday, I was very apprehensive but everyone was fine with me and I just got back into training and hoped that I would have the chance to make up for what I had done.

The home game against Coventry was looming. I did not expect to play as suspension meant that I was out for the game afterwards, anyway. To my surprise the Gaffer selected me.

Not only did I play well but yet another come-back goal was achieved. Even though we did not win the tie, this game was the turning point of my season.

People may remember that

challenge for a long time but I will never forget it. They possibly did not know what I went through. Yes, it may have been justified but when you and your family have experienced such lows, the highs, when they do come, are so much sweeter.

Towards the end of the season, pressure was starting to creep in. I felt that losing big Tel and Scotty was taking its toll. The break in Portugal did help a great deal as we put together a good run afterwards.

It would be excellent to go away for a short break every two months during the season to re-charge our batteries but this is just not possible. You have to dig in and create your own luck.

We were all totally gutted after the Crewe game. We only knew when we came off that had we won we would have been promoted.

More disappointment followed when we could not beat Preston at home, the crowd was patient and provided an excellent atmosphere but it was just not to be our day.

The Evening Standard Five's at Wembley was fantastic and great preparation

"Disappointment followed when we could not beat Preston at home"

for the coming games. I believe it gave us a big lift and even though it is an indoor game with restricted players, we beat the best in London without a goal being scored against us. So who could argue with that? I enjoyed both games against Carlisle. They are a physical side which meant that we had to be at our best to beat them.

Wembley was far better for me than in the Trophy. Our preparation was really first class, which made me feel relaxed. We looked and felt good which helped our confidence.

The result capped an excellent season for me, personally. Not only had the club won promotion and the Five-a-Side Tournament but I was proud to be included in the divisional team by the PFA and, most importantly, player of the year by the Wycombe supporters.

I felt especially happy for my parents. My Dad came to all my matches when I was a boy and both parents regularly attended the games at Griffin Park until it was clear Brentford did not want me any more.

They have been to nearly every home and away game this season. It was very tough for them when I was suspended, but they stuck by me and are very proud of what I have achieved. I dedicate my season to them and hope to duplicate my achievements in the future."

Now fans must learn to patient

By Steve Peart

SO we made it.

We may have publicly scoffed at our pre-season status as favourites. Privately, we would have been disappointed if we had not been promoted.

Many clubs in the bottom division are casting envious glances our way. Rochdale have tried to achieve promotion since 1974, Hereford since 1978, Colchester since 1981, Scunthorpe since 1984, Lincoln since 1986 and Carlisle since 1987. This, despite the generous quota of four teams being allowed to 'escape' each season.

Our supposed role models are Wimbledon, but their rise met many problems. In their first season, in 1977-78, they finished a moderate 13th but were promoted the next season. They came straight back down, went straight up again - three promotions and three relegations in six years. They won promotion to Division Two in their first season back in Division Three and stayed at that level for two years before reaching the promised land of the First Division in 1985-86.

What is so remarkable about the club is not that they reached dizzy heights just nine years after leaving the Southern League or that they won the FA Cup in this period, but that they maintained their position at the top level for the last seven seasons. That is the difficult part, and the fact that they have become one of the better sides in the Premier League is almost unbelievable.

Thirteen teams have gone from the bottom to the top divisions since the Fourth was created out of the old Third Divisions North and South in 1958. They are (with the number of seasons it took): Carlisle United (11) in 1974, Coventry City (nine) in 1967, Crystal Palace (nine) in 1969, Luton Town (seven) in 1974, Northampton Town (four) in 1965, Notts County (11) in 1981, Oldham Athletic (21) in 1991, Oxford United (21) in 1985, Sheffield Utd (nine) in 1990, Swansea City (four) in 1981, Swindon Town (eight) in 1993, Watford (five) in 1982 and Wimbledon (four) in 1986. Only Coventry City have maintained their status. They have enjoyed 27 consecutive seasons in the First Division - a feat just as remarkable as Wimbledon's when their comparative size is considered.

Since Martin arrived, supporters' expectations have soared, dangerously. So recently-arrived fans must be patient and not be disappointed if we fail to win honours one season.

8

THE BLUES NEWS



Thigh's the limit: Doreen Evans fulfils her ambition and helps charity by stroking Paul Hyde's leg

Paul's thighs help charity

Dear Blues News

MY mum Doreen Evans is pictured stroking Paul Hyde's thighs, all in the aid of charity (as if she didn't enjoy it!)

My mum and dad have been season ticket holders since the Wanderers were playing non-league football. They are avid fans, often arranging visits around the country to coincide with away games.

My mum has always had ambition to touch Paul's thighs. We got our chance to ask him whilst queuing for more than three hours for tickets for the last league game of the season against Preston North End. Paul did offer to drop his trousers in the car park there and then, but it was arranged to do it before the game and we would get sponsors

for Wycombe General Hospital's Scannappeal.

In just over a week £250 worth of sponsors were promised by friends and family. We were all concerned that Paul would not be allowed to fulfil his promise because the game against Preston was such an important one. But true to his word he made my mum's day and we are all so grateful.

My whole family would like to thank the team for a wonderful season of entertainment culminating in a brilliant Wembley final and everyone associated with Wycombe Wanderers, the best team in the Football League.

With thanks

Michelle Evans
Leighton Buzzard

Play-off drama delays pitch overhaul

CLIPPINGS
by Jim Gardener

WHAT a grandstand finish to our first ever season in the Football League.

These notes could have been very easy to write but I am sure this paper will be full of all the reports from the end-of-season games.

I will leave it to others who have a far better grasp of the English language than myself, suffice to say, it has been marvellous to be a part of what has been a really wonderful time.

On the work front, because of our involvement in the play-offs, one part of the end-of-term renovations had to be cancelled.

We were due to dig out a poor area close to the centre circle to a depth of eight inches and refill with new sand and reseed.

It was always going to be risky when it looked like we had 11 weeks until the new season.

But because we lose almost two weeks I cancelled that part of the work and spent more time on correcting the levels.

The remainder of the planned renovations were carried out, unfortunately not in ideal conditions.

We had a lot of rain before and during the time this work was carried out.

But due to the time scale I had to get the seed down to give it as much chance as possible to root and form a tight dense sward.

The new irrigation system is going in at the same time and will prove a much more efficient method of watering.

We have in the office a list of the clubs competing in next season's Second Division along with the mileage from Wycombe and the expected journey time.

The total mileage for next season will be 3,250 miles, taking 52 hours 37 minutes, compared with last season's 3,580 miles and 43hrs 34mins.

Double this mileage up and we will cover some 6,500 miles.

Out of the 23 grounds I have been to only eight of them so it will be nice to see so many new grounds.

I wonder if travelling to the three Welsh grounds will be a problem.

You see after the Swansea game down here I asked if the last one back over the bridge could lock the gates and then throw away the keys.

If he did as I asked if would mean I would have to use my least favourite means of transport and fly!

HOW can the human brain be such a fickle thing that it allows such extremes of emotions to take over your whole body in a relatively short time span?

Is it really possible that a couple of Saturdays ago we were all on the proverbial cloud nine after the most wonderful day at Wembley? Yet somehow by the middle of the following week the mood in the office was curiously bleak. If there is such a thing as an overdose of euphoria, us girls were suffering from it badly!

From the moment the final whistle went against Preston on the last day of the football season proper, we collectively rounded up every last ounce of energy for another three weeks of tension, drama and non-stop hard graft that go hand in hand with big games.

Carlisle home and away resulted in an extra Saturday at work selling tickets and a very early start on Sunday morning in the "staff only" mini coach. The pessimistic amongst us may have been tempted to think that omens were not boding well when the coach broke down half way up the

"Clubs are full of pathetic specimens like me who believe all sorts of superstition"

M6. What should have been a leisurely drive and relaxed pub lunch, turned into a journey from hell at top speed through the buffeting wind of the Pennines, dodging the stray pieces of scotch egg that didn't quite reach your mouth.

Thankfully the team were superb and with a two-goal advantage we prepared for the second leg at home, well aware that if we came out on top the public would expect us to be ready with Wembley information the moment the final whistle had sounded.

Now you must understand that football clubs are full of pathetic specimens like myself, who truly believe in all sorts of superstitious rubbish affecting the results of our games.

It's no wonder that we all look vaguely distraught in the office before kick-off after a whole day spent avoiding cracks in pavements, scouring the countryside for a glimpse of assorted lucky animals and desperately hoping that you've put on the "right" pair of winning knickers.

You have to be crazy to work here



By Diane Medcraft

The one thing that we never, ever, allow ourselves to talk about is the next game after the one you haven't won yet. Imagine our dilemma in the few days before Carlisle at home, when we had to plan all the arrangements for a Wembley appearance before we knew the result.

Had things gone horribly wrong we all knew that it would have nothing to do with a poor team performance — the Commercial Office would be collectively to blame. To say we were profoundly relieved when the lads let us off the hook is an understatement and we felt suitably smug when the first poster advertising Wembley tickets was in place on the office door the same evening.

Having set the hours that we would open for ticket selling and rounded up all available staff, those of us who have done it several times before wished we could muster up the same enthusiasm as those who hadn't.

They say that ignorance is bliss and I'm sure that Carole (who joined us this year) thought we were exaggerating just a little when we told her that come the Big Day she would be on the verge of admitting herself to the nearest psychiatric unit, incapable of answering a question without sobbing hysterically and having nightmares where 20 stone wrestlers chase you down a dark alley shouting "where's my tickets". By comparison, we gleefully warned her, a week locked in a barn with a crazed bull would seem rather relaxing.

Somehow we managed. With the help (or hindrance) of a few coloured seating plans we must have given a certain welcoming air to the place, judging by the numbers who managed to stay at least half an hour deliberating between two bucket seats in the family enclosure or an upper tier behind the goal.

Some questions just are not answerable. "Will I enjoy it more here, or there?" was a favourite, along with many along the line of "Why can't I have a £13 seat next to the Royal Box, can you guarantee that no one will stand up and block my son's view and can I sit in the same seat as last year?" More difficult to deal with were the customers who leant over the shoulder of the person in front, waited ten minutes while they chose their seats then said in a very loud stage whisper just as we had torn off the stubs "I've sat there before and you can't see a thing!"

It did cross our minds quite frequently that some of our supporters must be a very insecure bunch — is it really essential that a party of nine sit in three consecutive rows, presumably so that they can collectively hold hands in stressful moments and chat amongst themselves if the

game has a dull moment or two?

However, each to their own, we think we did our best to churn out the tickets as quickly as possible and could only react with complete amazement to the news that Preston had sold some 20,000 in one weekend.

I can only assume that their sales technique was a lot more basic than ours and consisted of

"A week locked in a barn with a crazed bull would seem rather relaxing"

three set phrases, ie "what price" followed by "how many" and rounded up with a brisk "take it or leave it".

Two days to go and we were all now staggering in to work after an alcohol-induced few hours sleep. At this point double amputation of the balls of the feet with no anaesthetic would be a welcome release but we gritted our teeth and grinned as the surge of "I bought these tickets on Monday and would like the seat next to it" customers started flocking through the doors in droves.

The players and management were all safely cocooned in their pre-Wembley surroundings, preparing for 90 minutes which hopefully would re-write history for the Wanderers once more. We were on our knees counting ticket stubs and wondering if we would ever feel remotely human again.

At the time of writing we are still recovering the hard way, but with incredible memories of a special day and a season to be proud of. Other than a two-week expenses-paid holiday in the Caribbean; what more could we ask for?!

THE BLUES NEWS

9

Word of Blues is everywhere



Tell the world: Watch out as Wycombe are on their way says Stephen Lee in a warning cry at Wembley

SO the fairy tale continues! The best way to really appreciate how far our club has gone is to look at how the outside world views us.

Unprecedented media coverage has rightly labelled us Wonderful Wycombe. From Slough to Birmingham City in little over a year.

No doubt we'll be installed as automatic favourites to win Division Two, not to mention the FA Cup for our obligatory trip to Wembley! But for now, we can just reflect on play-off glory and be relieved we're not going to Layer Road next season.

Our play-off story began on Cup Final day. A group of us headed up the M6 to Carlisle, via a stop at The Plough Inn, Galgate, near Lancaster to watch the big match in the company of some Man United, Chelsea and Preston fans!

The latter were feeling particularly unhappy at the prospect of playing Torquay and thought that Carlisle or us would win the play-offs! Prophetic words indeed.

Onwards and upwards to spend the night in Carlisle, and soak up the pre-match atmosphere.

Towards the end of the evening language problems between the North and South prevented me from securing any quotes, but we got the impression they were confident.

Anticipating the match was far worse than the actual event. Of course, with the benefit of hindsight, we should have realised the team would produce such an incredible performance, as they have done on so many previous occasions.

But at the time, my heart stopped every time the ball entered our half! However, when Super (Simon Garner) scored our second goal, their resolve was reduced for a while.

Their fans invading the pitch obviously didn't help. In the end we thoroughly deserved our victory, and with the presence of Keith Scott there as a Wycombe fan, how could we fail?

A word for us, the fans. I thought we were superb throughout, I'm sure we gave the team the lift they required.

Thankfully the second leg was an anti-climax as we scored early enough to put the tie beyond their reach.

Mind you, to the amusement of the

SUPPORTERS VIEW by Stephen Lee

people around me I was still nervous even when we were 4-0 up. Later in the Vere suite, news spread around that we would face Preston. Okay, we thought, at least we'll be more skilful than them!

For the first time I made the pilgrimage to the Twin Towers by rail. An indicator of our growing support base was that the train that we all caught around 11am was fairly full of Wycombe fans by the time it reached High Wycombe.

At Gerrards Cross there were more of our fans, plus an American family of four. When the doors opened and they were confronted with a packed heaving mass of light and dark blue faces and wigs, they decided to wait for the next train!

Little did they know that all trains would be similarly full. I wonder if they knew what was going on?

Unfortunately, for the first time, we were outnumbered at Wembley. Preston had long-anticipated a Wembley visit and were able to benefit from the interest generated by

"I had my head in my hands ...then I looked up as the ball arrived at Thommo's feet"

their first visit in 30 years.

We, on the other hand, were visiting for the third time in four years, and this time it was 'only' compensation for not going up automatically. When you also consider the extortionate ticket prices, I would say the 17,000 plus we sold was highly respectable.

Call me biased, but I'm sure we made more noise than the 30,000 fans that went last year.

Call me biased again, but on the day we didn't look that outnumbered. From the vast numbers of balloons to the continuous encouragement I'd say we beat Preston off the field as well as on it.

Mind you, it is easy to sing when your team performs so magnificently. It is also worth pointing out that our

support has gone national now, and I don't just mean from ex-residents of Wycombe.

The WWFC Supporters Club in Bristol has now converted up to six or so Rovers fans to the true Blue faith.

On to the match itself. It is fair to say that we all went through the vast swing in emotions that only football can cause.

Surely it was unjust that they took the lead after we missed so many chances but the sickening feeling almost immediately became sheer ecstasy as Thommo broke free and scored.

That moment will be forever engrained on my memory. I had my head in my hands trying to comprehend being behind, then I looked up as the ball arrived at Thommo's feet!

It was bad enough to fall behind once in a game of this magnitude, but twice! Both their goals were well taken, even spectacular, considering their usual build ups.

Surely the fates were conspiring against us. We were playing all the football yet were losing.

So what happens? Within two minutes of the restart we've equalised via a long ball! It's a funny old game.

From that moment on Proud Preston wilted and died, Wonderful Wycombe were rewriting the headlines.

The whole day felt like it was being played at fast forward on a video, especially the end.

On previous occasions the lap of honour lasted ages as the players enjoyed every last minute at Wembley.

This time, though, they proceeded around relatively quickly. Creaser didn't.

The very epitome of the spirit of WWFC, he came around slowly applauding our efforts as we appreciated his.

Perhaps an advantage this so-called League game had over a cup final was that the whole squad could feel justifiably proud of their contribution to another successful season, rather than the selected few for a cup run.

Next month I'll write a little about our forthcoming adventure in Division Two, and ask the question, just how far can WW go?

My Wanderers friends enjoy letting their hair down

THE PARTY
by Steve Hayes

THE match had finished. We had won and the players had completed their lap of honour. I made my way to the Banqueting Suite which is situated behind the Royal Box where the players wives, family and friends had congregated.

It was even harder to get a drink than in the Vere Suite at Adams Park after the Carlisle game and as Alan Parry found out to his cost, bribery does not work on Wembley staff.

I recognised a few famous faces, not least the guy from the Football League who pulls out the balls for the away teams in the League Cup draws.

Not a bad job that. It may seem easy to ordinary folk like ourselves but you do have to concentrate on only pulling out one at a time and being able to read the number out correctly.

This is a position that the president Gordon McKeag, who was also present, may struggle with.

He was the person who in his wisdom felt that Wycombe were not good enough to come into the Football League when a place became available in 1992. Well look at us now!

Yes, every team that plays at Wembley want to win but to play in the way that we did must leave those people on the League committee with egg on their faces.

Wycombe are not any old side from the Vauxhall Conference and should have been given a chance to prove it before now.

The Preston players started to arrive into the bar area in their club track suits looking tatty and dejected. What a contrast to the Wanderers squad who wore plum suits supplied by Oaklands of Wycombe.

In my view this showed professionalism by the club's board. If you get a chance to go to Wembley you must look the part and our boys most certainly did.

They boarded the coach at 7.30pm to make the short trip back to Adams Park. I could see their jubilation as it pulled away and reflected on the awful drive that the Preston had in front of them.

A few supporters had congregated at the ground to welcome the lads back. The rest of the 20,000 people had possibly already found a quiet pub in Wycombe to celebrate our achievement.

It had already been decided that a private function would be laid on for the directors, players, families and close friends.

I was proud to be part of the celebrations. Marketing manager Mark Austin had kindly invited me as his wife was unable to attend as she had flown off on a pre-booked holiday in the morning with his family.

He was due to catch an early morning flight the next day. At the time of writing I do not even know if he ever made it!

I nearly did not get in as he had not handed me a ticket, three staff stood on the door to block my path.

I could have waited until they moved inside but decided

to explain the situation which they accepted.

This was just as well because unselfishly they were still there when I left at 2am.

Football is a team game. In my opinion Martin O'Neill buys and picks team players who knit in and work for each other.

Even when I used to play Sunday football, I have never witnessed a group of people that are as together.

However, the Wycombe team is not just the 11 players that walked onto the hallowed turf at Wembley, it is a lot deeper than that.

Everyone plays a part, parents sitting in the stands can do nothing to help once the game has started, but by supporting them in every way off it, they do play an important role.

When Jason went down early on in the game following a clash of heads, I looked across to his mum Elaine, her worried look told a different story than those of the other Wycombe supporters present. It soon changed when she saw that her



Martin O'Neill: A shrewd picker of players

boy was all right and fit to continue.

There are many other members of this team, the chairman, directors, managers, mad Jim the groundsman, and their families, together with the kitchen staff and the lovely girls behind the bar who kept smiling all night.

This was a time for all of the team to let their hair down and enjoy themselves. At first it seemed that it would be a fairly quiet evening as those invited started to arrive.

The only halt in the proceedings was for Martin to say a few words and make an award for the man of the match. It had been reported that Wycombe only had one injury doubt through a virus. This man was Paul Hyde who did look very pale.

He had lost 10lbs during the week leading up to Wembley, though his performance did not show this. It was clear that he had done very well and deserved the bottle of Champagne which Martin handed to him.

Towards the end of the evening I did spot Ivor Beeks walking round the room on his own. He looked like he was quietly soaking up the atmosphere and reflecting on his club's first year in the Football League, and who could possibly deny him that?

10

THE BLUES NEWS PLAYER PROFILES



Tussle: Simon Garner in action

Full name: Simon Garner
Date of birth: 23rd of November, 1959
School: Boston Grammar School, Lincolnshire
Height: 5ft 9in
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Home: Wycombe
Car: Vauxhall Cavalier
Brothers & sisters: A brother David who is a teacher
Dad's job: Retired
Nickname at club: Gams

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who do you share a room with on away trips?
 Glyn Greaser.

Does he have any annoying habits?
 He never makes the coffee and smokes too much.

What was your ambition as a child?
 To be a professional footballer.

What is your ambition now?
 To play on for as long as I can.

Who was your boyhood hero?
 Colin Bell (Man.City), Pele & Dalglish

What has been your biggest thrill in life?
 Getting transferred to Wycombe.

What has been your biggest disappointment in life?
 Never playing in the Premier League.

What is your saddest moment in football?
 Losing a play-off final to Crystal Palace.

Which present-day footballer do you admire most?
 Alan Shearer.

Who is the greatest player there has ever been?
 Pele.

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?
 My mum and dad, they took me everywhere and watched me as often as possible.

Who is the toughest opponent you have faced?
 Alan Hansen & Terry Evans.

Do you have any superstitions before a game?
 I always go out last.

Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career?
 Although I have learned something from all my gaffs, Bobby Saxton who was the manager at Blackburn taught me a great deal.

What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer?
 I have not got a clue, I never wanted to do anything else.

Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement?
 I played cricket for Lincolnshire Schools.

What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch?
 Andy Kennedy celebrating after scoring a goal at Blackburn, I have never seen anything like it.

What was your most embarrassing moment in football?
 Being kissed on the cheek by Matt Crossley after I scored at Carlisle in the play-off semi.

What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do?
 Playing a practice match without a ball.

Which team did you support as a boy?
 Manchester City.

What is your favourite ground?
 Ewood Park, Blackburn.

What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy?
 Tennis and relaxing.

Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman?
 Jimmy White.

What is your most prized possession?
 My children.

Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport?
 I would like to win the men's singles at Wimbledon.

What really annoys you in football?
 Poor referees.

What are your pet hates outside football?
 Politics, bad drivers and traffic jams.

FAVOURITES

TV programme: Cheers

Pop star/group: U2

Food: Chinese

Drink: Coffee

Film: Cape Fear, Blazing Saddles & Midnight Express

Film stars: Robert De Niro and Demi Moore

Comedian: Chubby Brown

LP: Simple Minds Greatest Hits

City: Rome

Soap: Coronation Street

Soap character: Jack Duckworth



Celebration: Chuck Moussaddik (centre) after the Wembley play-off final

Full name: Chuck Ahmed Iddrisi Moussaddik

Date of birth: 23rd of February, 1971

School: North Westminster

Height: 5ft 12in

Weight: 13st

Home: White City

Car: Golf GTI Convertible

Marital status: Single

Brothers & sisters: One sister and I had a brother

Children: Don't know of any

Family pets: Collie called Champagne

Nickname at club: Moussa' or Azmi

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who do you share a room with on away trips?
 Steve Guppy.

Does he have any annoying habits?
 He leaves the windows open all night and tends to throw his pillows around.

What was your ambition as a child?
 To be a professional footballer.

What is your ambition now?
 To be the greatest professional footballer.

Who was your boyhood hero?
 Peter Shilton & Bruce Grobbelaar.

What has been your biggest thrill in life?
 Representing my country and England's schools.

What has been your biggest disappointment in life?
 The loss of my father and brother.

What is your saddest moment in football?
 Getting to Wembley and not playing.

Which present-day footballer do you admire most?
 Bruce Grobbelaar and Maradona.

Who is the greatest player there has ever been?
 Pele and Maradona.

Who has been the greatest influence on your career?
 My family, my brother spent a great deal of time firing shots at me.

Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career?
 Martin O'Neill. He has made me determined to prove him wrong.

What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer?
 Possibly in jail.

Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement?
 I played tennis for inner-London.

What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch?
 Cantona throwing a ball at the ref then walking off.

What was your most embarrassing moment in football?

I let a goal through my legs in a school cup final, my brother then ran onto the pitch and smacked me in the jaw.

What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do?
 When I was at Wimbledon, we used to arm up the first team fighting the youth side, sort of like British bulldogs, they kicked the **** out of us.

Which team did you support as a boy?
 Liverpool.

What is your favourite ground?
 Old Trafford and the Sanseiro.

What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy?
 Tennis, swimming and running.

Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman?
 Ivan Lendl.

Do you have any unusual food that improves your game?
 Loubis, a Moroccan dish like baked beans.

What is your most prized possession?
 My caps for Morocco and the Sword I won for player of the tournament in The Evening Standard Fives this year.

Do you play any musical instruments?
 No, but I have a wonderful voice.

Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport?
 To win Wimbledon.

What really annoys you in football?
 Sitting on the bench.

What are your pet hates outside football?
 Having too many women pestering me and having to constantly listen to Guns & Roses which Evans will persist in playing on away trips.

FAVOURITES

Favourite pastime: I enjoy winding people up which isn't difficult with the present bunch of ads

TV programme: Only Fools & Horses

Pop star/group: Whitney Houston, I hate Guns & Roses

Food: Chinese

Drink: Orange Juice and Pina Colada

Film: Godfather, Basic Instinct

Film stars: Al Pacino, Robert De Niro & Sharon Stone

Holiday resort: Falaraki Greece, Scored five times

Comedian: Jim Davidson & Chubby Brown

LP: Bodyguard - Whitney Houston

City: Milan

Soap: Dynasty, Dallas and EastEnders

Soap character: JR Ewing

Profiles compiled by Steve Hayes

RISBORO' SIGNS
 THE COMPLETE SIGNWRITING SERVICE
 • Vans, Commercial Vehicles
 • Shop Facades etc
 • Notice Boards
 • Coaching and Guiding
 • Corporate Livery & Logo Design
 STUDIO (0844) 275097
 Unit 47, Princes Estate, Princes Risborough

HIGH WYCOMBE'S TRAIN & MODEL CENTRE
 * HORNBY * SCALEXTRIC * GRAHAM FARISH * MINITRIX * SUPERQUICK * WILESCOPE * MAMOD * RATIO * KESTREL *
 BALSAMWOOD * PLASTICMETAL CENTRE * GLUES * KITS * PAINTS * RADIO CONTROL CARS, BOATS AND PLANES *
 Car Park at rear • Repair Service Available • Rear of Childs Toy Shop

CHILDS MODELS
 202 DESBOROUGH ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS
 HP11 2TE TEL: 0494 464540

RED TAPE STOPPING YOU GIVING MARTIN A WAVE?

- ★ Quality Service — Guaranteed not to give you the blues
- ★ Fixed Fees — No need to Hyde from them
- ★ Flexible Opening Times Thank Evans
- ★ Prompt Advice — Quicker than Ryan's Express
- ★ For a firm that's always on the ball

WHY NOT PHONE MICHAEL BAINES OR COLIN RACKSTRAW ON

0494 521687

For a chat about the Blues

Oh, and you could always arrange an interview to discuss your financial affairs (first meeting free)!

RACKSTRAWS 31 DASHWOOD AVENUE HIGH WYCOMBE

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND REGISTERED AUDITORS

Just Kits

SPECIALISTS IN FOOTBALL CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE?



The choice is all yours.

WITH OUR NEW NUMBERING AND LETTERING SERVICE.
 DOUBLE NUMBERS £3.50 SINGLE NUMBERS £2.50

LETTERING 50p per letter

THE No.1 KIT SPECIALIST IN THE THAMES VALLEY

For more information please phone:

Kit Kall Direct (0753) 552353
 or (0753) 537811

Visit our Showroom:

Enterprise House, 370/386 Farnham Road, Slough, Berks, SL2 1JD
 Within the GFE Electrical Wholesale building



Junior Blues Club 1994/95 Membership

SPONSORED BY
**PSV
GLASS**

BENEFITS

(for children under 5 years of age on 1st June 1994)

- 1) Membership Package Includes:-
Junior Blues Membership Card.
Certificate of Honour from Martin O'Neill
Stickers.
Baby Bib (65% cotton, 35% polyester) "I dribble better than Wycombe Wanderers" or 100% Acrylic "The Blues" printed Scarf (Please state your preference).
- 2) No joining fee for Senior Blues Membership or 25% off First Standard True Blues Membership on becoming 5 years of age.
- 3) Annual Birthday Card from Wycombe Wanderers F.C.
- 4) Free entry to all matches at Adams Park.
- 5) Birthday will be mentioned in Matchday Programme each year.

Cost - No Joining Fee

Junior Blues Membership is only £10 for those under 5 years of age.

(payable once only)

Existing Junior Blues, aged 0-4 will remain as a Junior Blues member with no further charge until they are 5 years old.

To join the Junior, Senior or True Blues Club please fill in the form below and send with the appropriate remittance to the address below. Please make cheques payable to W.W.F.C.

Name..... Date of Birth.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Tel. No.....

Type of Membership.....

Existing No. (if applicable)..... Remittance Enclosed £.....

Send to:- Wycombe Wanderers Football Club
Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks.
Tel. (0494) 472100 Fax: (0494) 527633 Creditcard Hotline: (0494) 441118



SPONSORED BY
**PSV
GLASS**



Senior Blues Club for 1994/5 Season

Benefits (for children over 5 and under 16 years of age on 1st June 1994)

- 1) Membership Package Includes
Senior Blues Membership Card
Certificate of Honour from Martin O'Neill
Stickers
Team Photograph
100% Acrylic "The Blues" Printed Scarf
- 2) 10% off First Standard Adult Terrace or Seat Season Ticket on reaching 16 years of age (as long as Senior Blues Member during the 1993/94 season)
- 3) Adams Park Guided Tour for Members
- 4) Annual Birthday Card from Wycombe Wanderers F.C.
- 5) 25% discount off Matchday Mascot Package
- 6) Free entry to all Capital League matches at Adams Park
- 7) 10% off any Standard Junior Terrace or Seat Season Ticket
- 8) Matchday Mascot package exclusive to Junior, Senior and True Blues
- 9) Free Annual Blues Event attended by Players
- 10) 25% discount off First Annual Membership of True Blues and no additional joining fee payable (as long as Senior Blues Member during previous season)
- 11) Birthday mentioned in Matchday Programme

Cost - Joining Fee £5
Annual Membership £10

Existing Junior Blues Members, who can produce their 1992/93 Junior Blues Membership Card will pay no joining fee.

The Senior Blues joining fee is payable in the first year

On renewal each year, members will get a new membership card, all the benefits shown in 2) - 12) above, and a renewal gift.



SPONSORED BY
**PSV
GLASS**



True Blues Club for 1994/5 Season

Benefits (for children over 5 and under 16 years of age on 1st June 1994)

- 1) Membership Package Includes
True Blues Membership Card
Junior Terrace Season Ticket
Certificate of Honour from Martin O'Neill
Stickers
Team Photograph
100% Acrylic "The Blues" Printed Scarf
- 2) 25% off First Standard Adult Terrace or Seat Season Ticket on reaching 16 years of age (as long as True Blues Member during the 1993/94 season)
- 3) Adams Park Guided Tour for Members
- 4) Annual Birthday Card from Wycombe Wanderers F.C.
- 5) 25% discount off Matchday Mascot Package
- 6) Free entry to all Capital League matches at Adams Park
- 7) Matchday Mascot package exclusive to Junior, Senior and True Blues
- 8) Free Annual Blues Event attended by Players
- 9) Priority Booking for all Home Cup and Friendly Matches at Adams Park
- 10) Birthday mentioned in Matchday Programme

Cost - Joining Fee £10

1994/95 Membership £86

(or £90 if paid after Friday 8th July 1994)

Existing Junior, Senior or True Blues Members, who can produce their 1993/94 Blues Membership Card will pay no joining fee.

On renewal each year, members will get all the benefits shown in 2) - 10) above, a renewal gift and a Junior True Blues Terrace Season Ticket.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE BLUES LEAGUELINE SOCIETY?

If not, why not join today
for just £2 per week?

- Discount on one Season Ticket (Adult Terrace £15, Junior/OAP Terrace £20, Any Seat Season Ticket £10). New members must pay six months subscription in advance to receive this reduction. Discount reduces on a per match pro-rata basis.
- Members Weekly Prize Draw - First Prize £400, Second and Third Prizes of £25 each.
- Discount Card with discounts at retail outlets.
- Priority to members on All Ticket home matches.
- Yearly Forum with Club Officials
- "Classic Break" hotel voucher for free accommodation for two people for three nights in over 250 hotels in the UK. (Each person has to pay for breakfast and dinner in the hotel each day).
- Quarterly members draw winners list.

Please complete your name and address below and hand it to the Commercial Office or post (no stamp needed) to:-

Wycombe Wanderers Football Club,
FREEPOST, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3BR.

Enclose a cheque/cash (not by post) for £52 (six months subscription) if you wish to apply for a season ticket discount. If you are then paying by bankers order your mandate will start in six months time.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Tel.....

16-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-60 ☐ Over 60 ☐

If you wish to pay by Standing Order complete the mandate below. Should you wish to use an alternative method leave the mandate blank and we will contact you during the next few days.

I would like to pay by Bankers Order

Bank name and full address.....

Please pay to Lloyds Bank plc, 34 Oxford Road, High Wycombe. To the credit of The Blues LeagueLine Society Account No 1946599, Sorting Code No 30-94-28.

The Sum of £8.67 (Eight pounds and sixty seven pence) monthly ☐ Tick appropriate box

The Sum of £26.00 (Twenty six pounds) quarterly ☐

Commencing immediately until further notice from: Account Number.....

Name.....

Address.....

Signed.....

Please return to
Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, FREEPOST, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3BR.

12

THE BLUES NEWS



Clinching the deal: Club chairman Ivor Beeks (left) and Andrew Grice, the college's finance director shake hands on the sponsorship arrangement



We're right behind you: The college's name stands out in the background as Steve Guppy gets stuck in against Scunthorpe

College sponsorship has that touch of magic

FROM the moment the decision was taken that Amersham & Wycombe College would sponsor Wycombe Wanderers, the relationship has gone from strength to strength.

The club has twice gained promotion and the college has grown to become the largest provider of further education in Buckinghamshire.

Amersham & Wycombe College opened its first campus in High Wycombe four years ago and, like the club, continues to grow. More than 50 per cent of the college's students now come from the town and many of the college's 380 full-time staff live in the area.

In addition to a campus at Flackwell Heath, there is a Collegiate Centre at Downley, a highly successful partnership with Wycombe West School and a Technology Centre on the Cressex Industrial Estate.

Promoting the college through the sponsorship deal has had a number of benefits for both the club and college. College students on the Thames Valley Traineeship programme have worked in the Club Shop and in the Administration Offices. Adams Park has also provided a very successful venue for short courses and conferences run by the college.

Vice Principal of Marketing, Philip Tristram, is delighted with the

sponsorship success. "We were attracted by the sense of purpose at the club and its excellent facilities. The relationship between the club and the college has been so beneficial that it was a natural decision to renew our support."

The success is perhaps one reason why there are a growing number of Blues supporters among the students and staff.

The new three-year sponsorship of the Hillbottom Terrace has already proved its worth and with Wycombe Wanderers' promotion the college anticipates that the club will attract even better coverage.

The college is also developing its facilities in the town. Its main base in High Wycombe is the campus at

Flackwell Heath which last year saw the opening of excellent hairdressing and beauty therapy salons. A major refurbishment of other areas is now underway and the first phase is due to be complete in time for the start of the new academic year in September 1994.

Potential students have more than 500 courses to choose from this year. The opportunities range from vocational programmes for those seeking employment or updating their skills to evening leisure courses.

This year's choice includes Art and Design, Health and Social Care, Business, Leisure and Tourism, GCE A-levels, GNVQ Science, Teacher Training, Hairdressing and

Beauty Therapy, Information Technology, City and Guilds Motor Vehicle and many, many more.

The close relationship with the club is also leading to a number of joint courses. College staff are hoping to develop NCF (National Coaching Foundation) course with the Wanderers and assist in the training of club stewards on the new NVQ (National Vocational Qualification).

The links have also spread beyond the sponsorship deal.

From September, Wycombe Wanderers Lions Football Club will be using the college's facilities for training and matches. It is hoped that this will lead to the development of joint premises at Flackwell Heath.



HAZLEMERE WINDOWS AND CONSERVATORIES



AS KEEN SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIAL MATCH SPONSORS

We wish **WYCOMBE WANDERERS** continued success on their promotion into

THE ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE 2nd DIVISION



Draw your window design.

Bring the sizes to our London Road Showroom and George will give you an immediate no obligation quotation.

If you are thinking of a new conservatory or replacement windows why not visit our Showrooms now at

913 LONDON ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE (0494) 464641

OPEN Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 1pm

20 WARWICK ROAD, BEACONSFIELD (0494) 677097

OPEN Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm, Closed Sunday

FREE QUOTATION WITHOUT OBLIGATION

